

achievements, as well as through his dedicated service to the community. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Brother Michael McGinnis on his induction as President of La Salle University.●

RECOGNIZING THE CITIZENS AGAINST LAWSUIT ABUSE

● Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize a volunteer group of West Virginians who have joined together to educate the public on an important issue affecting our state and the nation. These individuals, who have formed Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse, CALA, are disseminating information to the public about our civil justice system, and they are working to encourage jury service and personal responsibility in our society.

CALA spokespersons based in Huntington, Charleston, Bluefield, Logan, Bridgeport, Fairmont, Morgantown and other cities in our state are educating the public about how lawsuit abuse can affect consumers. The CALA groups in West Virginia have raised funds to provide scholarships to students statewide through essay contests where the students address the important topic of jury service and personal responsibility.

Teaching our children the value of civic responsibility is a vitally important component of learning, and CALA's efforts have not gone unnoticed. By emphasizing the virtues of jury service, CALA is helping to give our children a more well-rounded education and is promoting values which will serve these children, and our future, well. I am proud that many of West Virginia's finest students, from our public and private secondary schools, have participated in these essay contests and have been recognized for their efforts in our local media. The winning high school essayists in last year's CALA scholarship contest were Joshua Linville, Sherman High School, Boone County; Amanda Knapp, Pt. Pleasant High School, Mason County; Matthew Walker, St. Joseph Catholic High School, Cabell County; Courtney Ahlborn, Parkersburg South High School, Wood County; Sarah Mauller, East Fairmont High School, Marion County; and Misty Lanham, Tygarts Valley High School, Randolph County.

Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse groups have declared September 19 through 25 to be "Lawsuit Abuse Awareness Week" in West Virginia. I commend the citizens for their dedication and commitment and to acknowledge this week as time of public awareness on the various issues affecting civil justice in our state. Our citizens should be encouraged to educate themselves about our civil justice system and how they can help to make it the best in the world.●

CONGRATULATIONS TO CHIEF JACK KRAKEEL

● Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge one of Georgia's outstanding civil servants. On August 29, 1999, Jack Krakeel, Director of Fayette County's Fire and Emergency Services, was named Fire Chief of the Year by the International Fire Chiefs' Association. This award is a fitting honor to a man who, through his hard work and leadership, has provided Fayette County with a superior fire and rescue team and has devised innovative methods to deal with emergencies.

Under Chief Krakeel's leadership, Fayette County's emergency services have found creative solutions to deal with ever-changing challenges. An important program implemented by the Department requires cross-training of employees. All career members of the Fayette County Department of Fire and Emergency Services are trained as both firefighters and paramedics. This gives the department incredible flexibility when dealing with severe emergency situations.

Fayette County, Georgia, is one of the fastest growing counties in the nation. In response to this rapid increase in demand for services, Chief Krakeel has developed plans implemented by the Fayette County Board of Commissioners which will maintain an average emergency response time of five minutes. In a business where the difference between life and death is often measured in seconds, the importance of this initiative cannot be underestimated.

Chief Krakeel's department also recognizes the need to inform families, particularly children, on the importance of fire safety. Under Chief Krakeel's leadership, the department was the first in the state to enact a multi-family housing sprinkler ordinance and also created a portable fire safety education home which teaches children how to escape from a fire.

Jack Krakeel has also serves in a variety of leadership roles related to emergency services. He is the national Chairman of the National Fire Protection Association's "Technical Project in Emergency Medical Systems." Also, Chief Krakeel is in his third year as a member of the Board of Directors of the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

On a more local level, Chief Krakeel is a member of the Georgia's Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council, and is in his twelfth year of service with the organization. Not long ago he helped lead the formation the joint EMS Committee of the Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs and the Georgia Firefighters Association.

Other accomplishments during Chief Krakeel's impressive career are too numerous to mention. It is not an exaggeration to state that few people have had a greater individual impact on modern emergency service techniques than Chief Jack Krakeel. Mr. President, I offer my congratulations

to Chief Krakeel for the honor bestowed upon him, and my hopes that he will continue to provide innovation and leadership for years to come.●

MR. K. PATRICK OKURA

● Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, this coming weekend a long time friend of mine, Mr. K. Patrick Okura, will be celebrating his 88th birthday. For the past decade, Pat has been extraordinarily active in guiding the Okura Mental Health Leadership Foundation in order to ensure that young Asian Pacific American health professionals, representing a wide range of disciplines, will have the skills and experiences necessary to eventually achieve leadership roles throughout our nation's health and human services agencies. Pat obtained his baccalaureate and master's degrees in psychology from the University of California at Los Angeles and has long been a member of the American Psychological Association which recently published a special article highlighting his monumental accomplishments. He is currently on the Board of Directors of the National Mental Health Association, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, and the Japanese American National Museum. He is a past-President of the Japanese American Citizens League and founder of the National Asian Pacific American Families Against Substance Abuse.

In July of 1971, during the Presidency of Richard Nixon, Pat assumed the position of Executive Assistant to the Director of the National Institute of Mental Health, NIMH. For the next decade, he remained at a high level policy position within the NIMH, shepherding to fruition numerous innovative mental health initiatives. He was an active participant in the deliberations of President Carter's landmark Mental Health Commission. For many of us in the U.S. Congress, those were the glory days for mental health. There was a sense of genuine excitement and optimism. Our nation was finally beginning to understand and appreciate the social and cultural aspects of health care, not to mention the importance of ensuring that all Americans should receive necessary care. Under Pat's leadership, our nation truly committed itself to the far reaching "deinstitutionalization movement," an effort which would eventually bring mental illness out of the closet and ensure that all of our citizens would retain their individual civil liberties, notwithstanding any particular diagnosis, lack of economic resources, or lack of immediate family.

During the mid-1980s, Pat went on to serve as Special Assistant to the President of Hahnemann University, once again with a unique focus on those projects and events that made the university the great educational institution that it was. As I have already indicated, for the past decade Pat has continued to "give back" to our nation by ensuring that future generations of